

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 808

UNCLAS BANGKOK 2684

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, BGEN, TH

SUBJ: PROPOSED SALE OF SUGAR FROM THAILAND

REF : STATE 032184

1. EMBASSY HAD NO INFORMATION ON SUK SIAM TRADING LTD. PART. IN ITS FILES. CHECK OF RECORDS OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE'S COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION DEPT. REVEALS FIRM IS RELATIVELY SMALL (400,000 BAHT TOTAL AUTHORIZED CAPITAL) AND REGISTERED IN 1971. THREE SHAREHOLDERS INCLUDE MISS SUVANCE AND MRS. CHULAIRAT SINGHAMONGKOLKHET AND MRS. ORAWAN BOON-UMUAYSOOK, ALL THAI NATIONALITY, WITH SHARES VALUED AT 200,000, 100,000, AND 100,000 BAHT RESPECTIVELY. ALL ARE UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. MANAGING PARTNER IS MISS SUVANEE SINGHAMONGKOLKHET. COMPANY IS LISTED AS GENERAL TRADING COMPANY, IMPORTER AND EXPORTER OF ELECTRICAL GOODS AND PRINTING MATERIAL, COMMISSION AGENT, AND HOLDING COMPANY.

2. ACCORDING SUGAR INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, THERE ARE NOW ONLY THREE LICENSED EXPORTERS OF SUGAR, EACH WITH ITS OWN ANNUAL QUOTA. THESE ARE:

- A. THAILAND SUGAR CORPORATION LTD. (QUOTA: 300,000 METRIC TONS).
- B. THAI SUGAR TRADING CORPORATION LTD. (QUOTA: 120,000 METRIC TONS)
- C. THAI SUGAR EXPORT COMPANY COMPANY LTD. (QUOTA: 60,000 METRIC TONS).

3. SUGAR INSTITUTE, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THERE ARE A NUMBER OF UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS ALLEGING THEY HAVE SUGAR AVAILABLE FOR

EXPORT, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT ANY OF THREE AUTHORIZED COMPANIES WOULD HAVE SUGAR IN EXCESS OF DEMANDS ON THEIR QUOTAS. QUOTA OF COMPANY (A) ABOVE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS BELIEVED TO BE UNDER CONTRACT FOR SALE TO GOLODETZ OF NEW YORK AND KUOK BROS. OF SINGAPORE. COMPANY (B) CONSISTS OF 21 SUGAR FACTORIES, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY MAKE USE OF ITS QUOTA. COMPANY (C) IS OWNED BY SUGAR PRODUCERS ASSN. WHICH IS PRESUMED TO MAKE USE OF ITS QUOTA.

4. EMBASSY HAS MET WITH SINGAPORE BUSINESSMAN IDENTIFIED IN SINGAPORE 0039, AS WELL AS WITH OTHERS WHO CLAIM TO KNOW OF SOURCES OF SUGAR AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN AUTHENTICITY OF SUCH CLAIMS. ONE SOURCE ALLEGES THAT EXPORT LICENSES CAN BE OBTAINED ONLY AFTER BUYER HAS OPENED L/C, BUT WE KNOW OF NO EXPORT SALES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSUMMATED ON THIS BASIS.
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